

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

Chadron, Nebraska

ISSUE IDENTIFICATION for PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT

Nebraska
National Forest
and
Related Range Management
in Conata Basin
and Scenic Basin

Buffalo Gap
National Grassland



AD-33 Bookplate
(1-65)

NATIONAL

AGRICULTURAL

LIBRARY



ISSUE IDENTIFICATION
FOR
PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT

NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST
AND
RELATED RANGE MANAGEMENT
IN
CONATA BASIN AND SCENIC BASIN

BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND

U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

AUG 17 1987

CATALOGING = PREP.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Document One--Black-tailed Prairie Dog Management on the Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units.....	1
Document Two--Range Management Strategies for Two Major Prairie Dog Areas-Conata Basin and Scenic Basin-on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland.....	11
Public Involvement.....	25
Response Form.....	27

DOCUMENT ONE

BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT
ON THE NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST
AND
ASSOCIATED UNITS

BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT ON THE NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST AND ASSOCIATED UNITS

The Land and Resource Management Plan for the Nebraska National Forest (NNF) and associated units has been prepared and is now being implemented as required by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 (RPA, P.L. 93-378) and National Forest Management Act of 1976 (NFMA, P.L. 94-588). It was stated in the Record of Decision for the Plan that a review of the current management direction for prairie dogs would be forthcoming and that appropriate new analyses and public involvement would be completed. This review has been initiated by an interdisciplinary team, and this document represents the first phase of the public involvement process.

This document describes the affected National Forest System (NFS) lands, the management situation, and several alternatives for future management including a proposed action. It's important to point out that some of the alternatives discussed in this document include management actions that involve the Sage Creek Wilderness Area in the Badlands National Park (BNP). The National Park Service is agreeable to this since the management actions called for in the alternatives are in line with the Natural Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment approved for the Park in 1984.

THE LAND

The NNF administrative unit includes the Nebraska National Forest, Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest, and the Oglala, Buffalo Gap, and Ft. Pierre National Grasslands (see map 1). These NFS lands total approximately 351,000 acres in Nebraska and 707,900 acres in South Dakota.

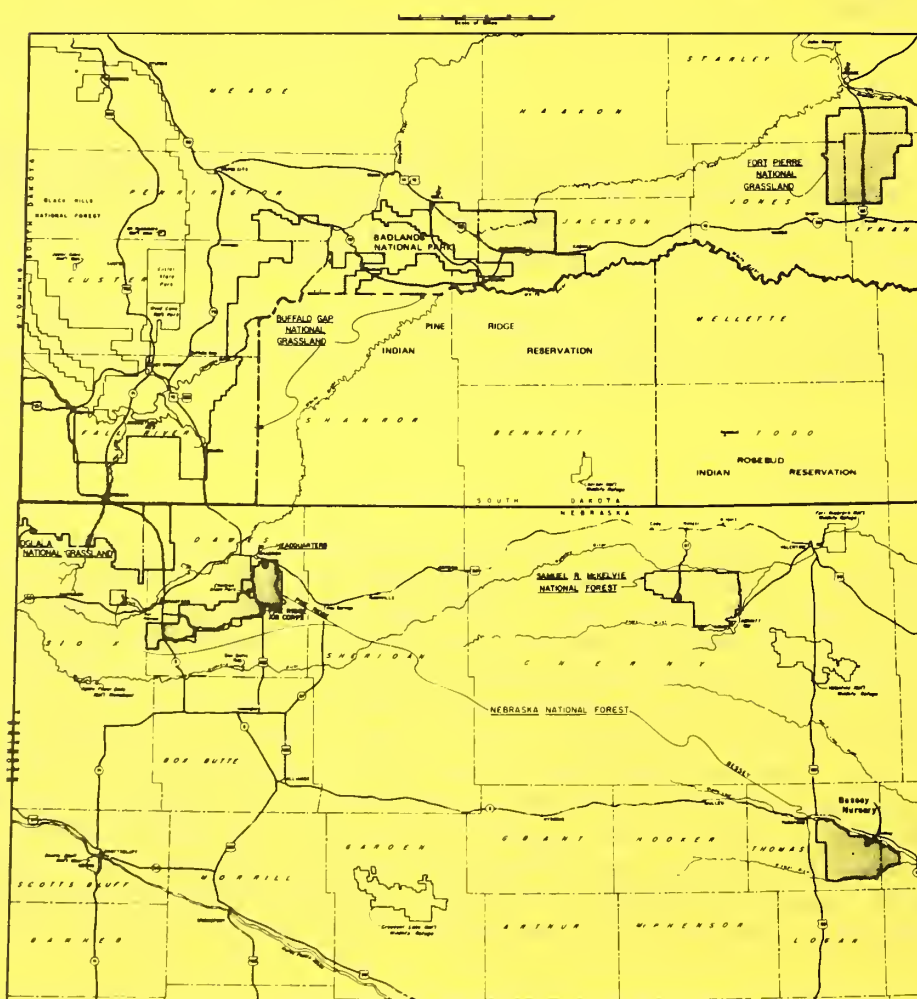
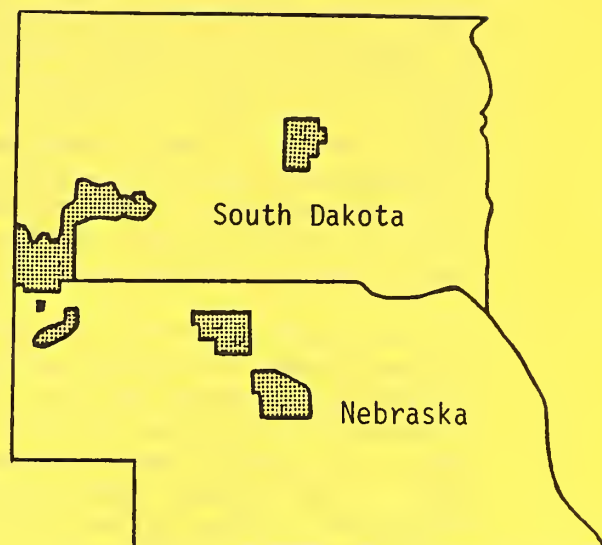
The Sage Creek Wilderness covers approximately 64,000 acres in the Badlands National Park in South Dakota. It was officially designated wilderness in 1976.

MANAGEMENT SITUATION

Black-tailed prairie dogs on the NNF and associated units have been managed during the last eight years under the direction provided in a 1978 Environmental Impact Statement and a 1981 amendment to that document. The general direction has been to reduce prairie dog populations to more manageable levels while maintaining sufficient prairie dog populations for various public uses such as sport-shooting and viewing, and for the wildlife species that are commonly found in association with prairie dogs. This direction was developed primarily in response to two concerns. The first concern commonly expressed by ranchers and landowners was the impact of expanding prairie dog populations on private lands adjacent to NFS lands, range conditions, and livestock forage. Several other publics were concerned about the effects of prairie dog poisoning on associated wildlife species, especially the endangered black-footed ferret.

Nebraska National Forest and Associated Units Location Map

**Region 2, Forest Service,
United States Department of Agriculture**



MAP 1

The Forest Service is evaluating several alternatives to the current management direction. From the agency's viewpoint, we believe that new information on the habitat requirements of black-footed ferrets needs to be considered and that the management program needs to be made more cost-effective. Comments that have already been received from various individuals and organizations also support the need for an evaluation of the current management program. These comments are summarized into the following main issues:

To what extent should prairie dog populations be controlled or reduced?

To what extent should prairie dog populations be managed to provide for the positive values associated with the species?

Should prairie dog populations in Conata Basin be managed as black-footed ferret habitat?

How can prairie dog populations be managed to reduce or prevent unwanted movement of prairie dogs from NFS lands to adjacent private lands?

How should prairie dogs be controlled?

Can the cost-effectiveness of the prairie dog management program be improved?

What are the hazards of prairie dog poisoning to other wildlife species and can potential hazards be reduced or eliminated?

Can prairie dog management programs on public and private lands be better coordinated?

In addition to these issues, pertinent laws and regulations that apply to the management of NFS lands must also be considered during this evaluation process. The Endangered Species Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-205) requires that all federal departments and agencies shall seek to conserve endangered and threatened species and shall not authorize, fund or carry out any action that is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species. NFMA regulations in 36 CFR 219.19 require that habitat on National Forest System lands be managed to maintain viable populations of existing native and desired non-native vertebrate wildlife species.

MANAGEMENT GOAL, OBJECTIVES AND ALTERNATIVES

The management goal and objectives for prairie dog management are currently described as follows:

GOAL - Manage prairie dog populations and associated wildlife as an integral part of the prairie ecosystem in a cost effective manner, while considering the needs of adjacent private landowners.

OBJECTIVES - Maintain control of prairie dog populations at a selected level.

Maintain active prairie dog colonies at a level that provides for ecological and recreational values.

Provide for black-footed ferret management.

Coordinate prairie dog management program with adjoining lands.

Reduce costs of prairie dog management program consistent with meeting other objectives.

Integrate range management with prairie dog management by providing good to excellent range conditions; thus increasing mid to tall grass cover.

Several tentative alternatives have been identified and a brief description of each follows:

ALTERNATIVE A. CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR PRAIRIE DOGS AND FERRETS.

Current management direction would continue unchanged. Prairie dog populations would continue to be reduced through rodenticide treatments and reduced livestock grazing to a level where a minimum of approximately 3,120 acres and 100 colonies would be maintained in an active status on NFS lands. Conata Basin on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland (BGNG) would continue to be emphasized for ferret habitat management using recommendations from an older ferret publication. Based on these recommendations, a minimum of approximately 1,520 acres and 32 colonies is maintained in an active status in a specified distribution on NFS and BNP lands in Conata Basin. Ferret habitat recommendations in a recent publication on ferret habitat near Meeteetsee, Wyoming, will not be implemented under this alternative. The livestock grazing reductions that were made under the 1978 EIS to help control prairie dogs would remain in effect.

ALTERNATIVE B. CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT DIRECTION FOR PRAIRIE DOGS AND FERRETS BUT INCREASE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED RANGE MANAGEMENT AS A LONG-TERM PRAIRIE DOG CONTROL METHOD.

Current management direction would continue, but additional emphasis would be placed on range and livestock grazing practices that produce vegetation conditions less favorable for prairie dog colony expansion and establishment. Livestock grazing levels and grazing systems would be modified accordingly. The distribution of active prairie dog colonies for ferret habitat would remain the same as described under Alternative A. The most current ferret habitat recommendations would not be implemented.

ALTERNATIVE C. INCREASE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED RANGE MANAGEMENT AND DISCONTINUE USE OF RODENTICIDES.

The only attempt to control prairie dog populations would be through range management practices that result in range conditions less suitable for prairie dogs. Livestock grazing levels and grazing systems would be modified accordingly. There would be no specified minimum or maximum limitations on the size and distribution of prairie dog colonies and no management actions directed at providing a specified prairie dog distribution as ferret habitat.

ALTERNATIVE D. INCREASE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED RANGE MANAGEMENT AND BE PREPARED TO MANAGE FOR A VIABLE FERRET POPULATION. (This is the proposed action)

Improved range management practices and rodenticides would be used concurrently to control prairie dog populations. Livestock grazing levels and grazing systems would be modified accordingly. The number of active prairie dog colonies and their total acreage would remain the same as described under Alternative A, but the locations of the active colonies will be re-evaluated using several considerations including proximity to private lands. In the event of a ferret reintroduction proposal or a confirmed ferret sighting in Conata Basin, an area of approximately 95,000 acres involving part of the NFS lands in Conata Basin and the Sage Creek Wilderness on the BNP (see map 2) would be managed as a black-footed ferret habitat area. The most current information on ferret habitat requirements would be consulted in developing management guidelines, and this information is currently found in the recent publication on ferret habitat in Wyoming. Under this direction, approximately 6175 acres and 30 to 40 colonies would be maintained in an active status in the habitat area. Based on the current prairie dog distribution, this would result in the need to maintain approximately 4,000 acres and 15 to 20 colonies in an active status on the NFS lands in the habitat area.

This is an increase in the minimum active area on NFS lands in Conata Basin of approximately 2,480 acres.

ALTERNATIVE E. INCREASE EMPHASIS ON IMPROVED RANGE
MANAGEMENT AND MANAGE FOR A VIABLE FERRET
POPULATION.

Management direction is identical to Alternative D, except the ferret habitat guidelines would be implemented immediately. The additional acreage of active colonies would be obtained by allowing prairie dog populations in selected colonies in the proposed ferret habitat area to recover from previous rodenticide treatments.

BGNG



Reference is made in Alternatives B through E to modifications in livestock grazing levels and grazing systems. The specific strategies involved in these modifications may include but are not limited to:

1. Rotational grazing systems (rest and/or deferment),
2. Restricting the number of new range improvements (livestock water developments and fences) to limit the number of sites suitable for establishing new colonies.
3. Changing allotment boundaries and/or combining allotments to reduce the need for new range improvements when implementing rotational grazing.
4. Changing the season when livestock grazing is permitted.
5. Changing the number of livestock and the length of time when grazing is permitted.
6. Assigning forage utilization standards.
7. Revegetating ranges (ripping, furrowing, plowing and seeding).

DOCUMENT TWO

RANGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES
FOR TWO MAJOR PRAIRIE DOG AREAS
-CONATA BASIN AND SCENIC BASIN-
ON THE
BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND

RANGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR TWO MAJOR PRAIRIE DOG AREAS-CONATA BASIN AND SCENIC BASIN-ON THE BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND

Range management practices and the effects of livestock grazing on rangeland vegetation are important factors influencing prairie dog distribution and abundance. Range management practices and grazing can be used to help control prairie dog populations, and improve the long-term cost-effectiveness of prairie dog management and control. Therefore, several preliminary alternatives, with different combinations of range management practices and grazing schemes, have been developed for two major prairie dog areas on the Buffalo Gap National Grassland-Conata Basin and Scenic Basin. These alternatives are based on the current effort of the Nebraska National Forest (NNF) to reassess the general direction for black-tailed prairie dog management. Now is the appropriate time to also begin assessing how possible new range management direction could be specifically applied to allotments in Conata Basin and Scenic Basin.

The direction for range management in these areas must address not only the prairie dog/livestock issue but other established direction in the Land and Resource Management Plan. This direction addresses other issues such as riparian management, other wildlife considerations, and individual grazing permits. The alternatives presented in this document describe several ways of applying range management to meet the outlined goals and objectives.

ISSUES, CONCERNS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Numerous comments on range management practices in Conata Basin and Scenic Basin have already been voiced by various individuals, organizations and agency personnel. These comments are summarized into the following main issues and concerns:

1. Should the current levels of livestock grazing be maintained?
2. How will changes in livestock grazing levels permitted on the National Forest System (NFS) lands in Conata Basin and Scenic Basin affect the viability of livestock operations?
3. What effects will allotment consolidation and rotational grazing have on livestock operations?
4. How can the cost-efficiency of range management and administration in these areas be improved?
5. How will changes in allotment management affect private land within allotments?
6. What level of wildlife habitat should be provided on the NFS lands in Conata Basin and Scenic Basin?
7. How can riparian vegetation around stock dams be maintained or enhanced?

8. How will rotational grazing systems affect range condition?

9. To what degree should new range improvements be limited?

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL - Implement range management strategies in Conata Basin and Scenic Basin that will: (1) promote vegetation conditions less favorable for prairie dog colony expansion and establishment, and (2) comply with other established direction. Specific range management practices should conform to the following objectives:

1. Maintain good or excellent range conditions with the exception of active prairie dog areas.
2. Leave sufficient forage after livestock grazing to help control colony expansion and establishment.
3. Install only those structural range improvements (fences and water developments) that will minimize establishment of new prairie dog colonies.
4. Practice rotational grazing using rest or deferment.
5. Promote mid-grass and tall-grass species using applicable grazing strategies.
6. Use the most cost-efficient grazing management strategies.
7. Provide for viable livestock operations.
8. Provide for prescribed prairie dog populations.

MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

In order to achieve the stated objectives, the following specific practices should be considered and used where necessary:

1. Grazing systems utilizing rest and/or deferment.
2. Changes in grazing seasons.
3. Changes in cattle stocking rates.
4. Changes in allotment boundaries. This includes combining allotments.
5. Vegetation manipulation (ripping, furrowing, plowing, seeding)
6. Assigning of maximum allowable utilization of vegetation.

Using the above practices would allow for individual livestock permittees to be relocated in order to implement grazing systems and alter allotment stocking rates. Relocation of permittees may avert any AUM reductions as well as increasing the efficiency of an individuals' livestock operation.

PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES

The following charts and maps describe five preliminary alternatives. Alternative 1 is the current management situation. Alternatives 2 through 5 show a preliminary look at possible ways to utilize the described management practices to accomplish the objectives. Please note the following as you review the alternative descriptions and maps:

Other alternatives are possible using different combinations of allotments.

Under alternatives 2 through 5, a choice of grazing system (deferred rotation or rest-rotation) is shown. We would like your input as to the type of grazing system you feel is appropriate (and why).

In alternative 1, the column that indicates the 1984-85 control acres represents the total number of acres that are currently controlled in that allotment. Adding the control acres and the active acres will give you the total acres of prairie dogs for each allotment. This information is pertinent for the current situation and may not apply to the other alternatives.

Acres per AUM represent the initial stocking rates and may increase or decrease depending on how the goals are being met.

Terms used on the chart describing each alternative are defined below:

c/c - cow-calf pair

b - bull

y - yearling

AUM - animal unit month; the amount of forage required by one mature cow (1,000 lbs.) or the equivalent for one month.

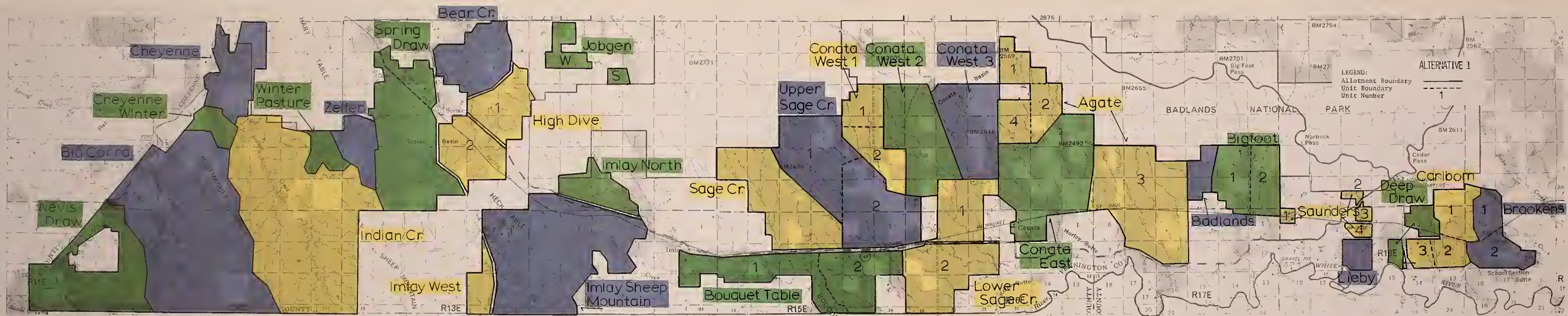
SEASON LONG - The grazing of a specific allotment or unit by livestock for the entire permitted season.

DEFERRED ROTATION - In an allotment with more than one unit, the grazing period for the units is systematically rotated so that each unit receives deferment through the growing season at least once during the rotational sequence.

REST-ROTATION - In an allotment with more than one unit, the grazing period for the units is systematically rotated so that each unit receives rest (no grazing) for one full year.

T.3S.

T.4S.



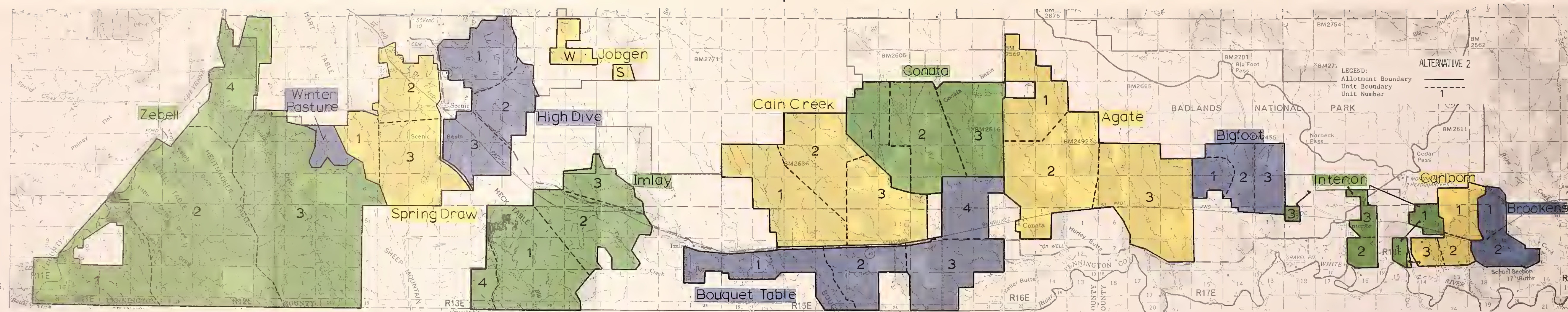
Note: Alternative A represents current management as directed by the 1978 EIS and 1981 amendment which set livestock numbers for individual allotments at a specified interval.

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK HEADS	TABLE ACRES	ADMS	ACRE/ ADMS	TYPE OF GRATING SYSTEM	SEASON	PRAIRIE DOG ACTIVE AREA AC.	1988-89 CONTROL AC.
AGATE	Kudine Ranch	745 c/o	1,399	1,511	4.8	REST ROTATION	1/15 - 8/30	370	760
BADLANDS	Aller Crops	9 c/o	659	62	10.6	SEASON LONG	5/18 - 10/31	50	70
BALE	Wanda Elsie	7 c/o	160	15	3.9	SEASON LONG	1/1 - 10/15	----	----
BEAR CREEK	Marvin Johnson	63 c/o	1,917	472	4.1	SEASON LONG	1/18 - 10/31	----	----
BIG CORRAL	Wanda Elsie Chuncker Taylor Donald Thoreson TOTAL	18 c/o 171 c/o 45 c/o 235	3,021	2,127	4.3	SEASON LONG	5/15 - 1/15	110	30
BIGFOOT	Walter Huester	148 c/o	3,754	887	3.1	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/18 - 10/31	----	----
BOUQUET TABLE	Ralph White Walter Whitchoy Ludree Ranch TOTAL	26 c/o 41 c/o 25 c/o 92 c/o	174 741 792 9,912	497	7.1	DEFERRED ROTATION	1/16 - 10/31	50	805
BROOKENS	Romana Anlette	158 c/o	1,793	761	2.3	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/1 - 7/31	----	50
CARLBORN	Charles Carlborn	170 c/o	2,073	687	3.5	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/12 - 10/1	----	----
CHEYENNE	Donald Thoreson	67 c/o	2,474	628	3.9	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 10/10	----	----
CHEYENNE WINTER	Donald Thoreson TOTAL	39 c/o 101 c/o	531	141	3.7	SEASON LONG	1/1 - 5/15 11/1 - 12/15	----	----
CONATA EAST	Walter	357 c/o	1,409	875	6.4	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 9/30	75	840
CONATA WEST 1	Walter Huester	90 c/o	3,765	739	3.3	DEFERRED ROTATION	1/10 - 10/30	115	550
CONATA WEST 2	Walter Huester	114 c/o	7,748	877	8.9	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 9/30	----	435
CONATA WEST 3	David Huester	106 c/o	3,312	630	5.3	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 9/30	100	----
DEEP DRAW	Guellill Fries	81 c/o	1,039	409	7.0	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/21 - 10/14	----	140
HIGH DIVE	Ralph White Marvin Johnson Susan Johnson Donald Johnson TOTAL	41 c/o 10 c/o 36 c/o 78 c/o 165 c/o	341 164 189 276 970	361	5.2	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/16 - 10/31	----	700

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK HEADS	SUITABLE ACRES	ADMS	ACRE/ ADMS	TYPE OF GRATING SYSTEM	SEASON	PRAIRIE DOG	
								ACTIVE AREA AC.	1988- 89 CONTL
IMLAY NORTH	Kudine Ranch	17 c/o	1,192	127	10.5	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 10/31	----	----
IMLAY SHEEP MT	Ralph White Wayne White Kudine Ranch TOTAL	101 c/o 37 c/o 37 c/o 215	647 198 673 1,514	5.1	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 10/31	505	717	
IMLAY WEST	Ralph White	88 c/o	454	90	5.0	SEASON LONG	6/16 - 1/15	100	----
INDIAN CREEK	Alvin Huester Chuncker Taylor Edward Taylor TOTAL	81 c/o 137 c/o 115 c/o 359	274 1,140 875 2,289	3.8	SEASON LONG	5/1 - 10/31	75	135	
TODDEN-SUGGER	Donald Johnson	18 c/o	240	82	8.7	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 10/31	----	----
JOBBEN-WINTER	Donald Johnson	115 c/o	800	775	3.1	SEASON LONG	11/1 - 1/31	----	----
LOWER SAGE CREEK	Walter Whitchoy Jesse Huester TOTAL	47 c/o 82 c/o 129	310 887 1,207	8.0	SEASON LONG	5/15 - 10/31	195	1,070	
NEVIS DRAW	Walter Guellill Fries TOTAL	30 c/o 61 c/o 91	363 443 806	4.2	SEASON LONG	5/1 - 10/31	----	110	
DATE CREEK	Walter & James Whitchoy	78 c/o	7,948	405	8.4	SEASON LONG	5/16 - 8/30	80	425
SAUNDERS	Guellill Fries	41 c/o	754	284	4.3	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/21 - 9/1	----	10
SPRING DRAW	Alvin Huester Tulach Estate TOTAL	123 c/o 115 c/o 238 c/o	893 672 1,565	3.0	SEASON LONG	5/18 - 10/31	----	728	
UPPER SAGE CREEK	Ralph White Wayne White Walter Whitchoy Susan Johnson Kudine Ranch TOTAL	21 c/o 36 c/o 46 c/o 13 c/o 14 c/o 130	102 191 384 74 100 5,848	3.0	DEFERRED ROTATION	5/18 - 10/31	290	1,575	
ZELFER	Paul Zeifer Winter Unit	125 c/o 10 c/o	1,272 761	808 97	1.8 7.7	SEASON LONG SEASON LONG	5/25 - 9/30 10/15 - 4/30	----	----

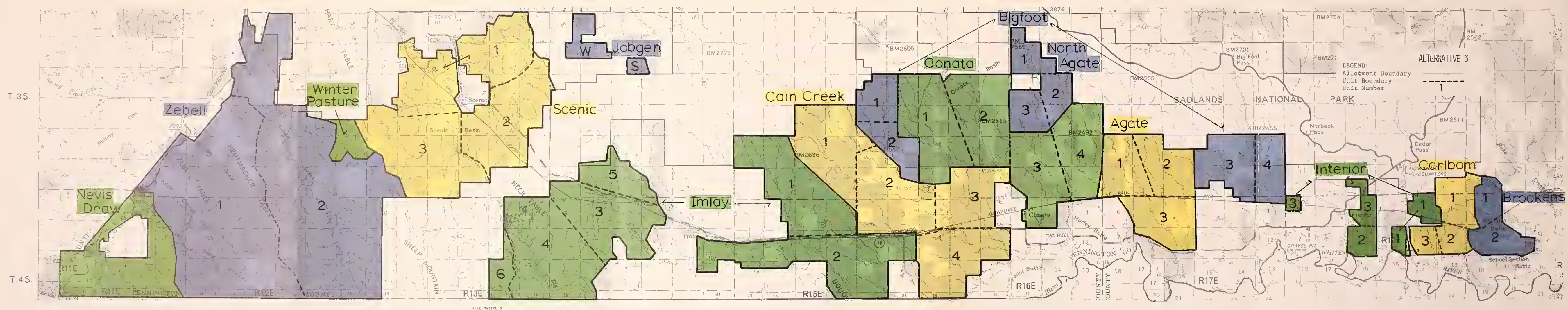
T.3S.

T.4S.



ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK HEADINGS	SUITABLE ACRES	ADMS	ACRES/ ADMS	TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	PRAIRIE LOG ACTIVE 1961-85 AREA AC. CONTROL AC.
AGATE	Eross Partnership Walter TOTAL	208 c/o	12,008	1,515	5.4	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/30	
		121 c/o		905				
		330 c/o		2,350				
BIGFOOT	Walter Huether Alice Crooks TOTAL	122 c/o	3,308	897	3.5	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
		0 c/o		62				
		121 c/o		849				
BOUQUET TABLE	Ralph White Jerald Huether Eudene Ranch TOTAL	35 c/o	10,071	353	6.0	4 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/15 - 10/31	
		61 c/o		457				
		128 c/o		934				
BROOKENS	Norman Anstott	206 c/o	1,710	761	2.3	2 UNITS Deferred	5/16 - 8/10	
CAIN CREEK	Walter Votcher Rosa A. Jauer Whitliff TOTAL	132 c/o	9,781	955	6.8	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
		65 c/o		488				
		197 c/o		1,124				
CARIBOU	Charles Caribou	93 c/o	1,702	581	2.9	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/10	
CONATA	Walter Huether William Huether Edward Huether TOTAL	92 c/o	6,985	710	4.4	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
		92 c/o		677				
		279 c/o		2,000				
HIGH DIVE	Harvin Joben Duane Joben Donald Joben TOTAL	88 c/o	5,311	638	4.4	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
		39 c/o		283				
		36 c/o		276				
IMLAY	Ralph White Wayne White TOTAL	146 c/o	7,653	1,057	5.0	Season Long/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
		63 c/o		457				
		209 c/o		1,514				
UNIT 3)	Eudene Ranch	17 c/o	1,707	123	10.5	Season Long	5/16 - 10/31	
UNIT 4)	Ralph White	68 c/o	2,191	454	5.0	Season Long	5/16 - 10/31	
INTERIOR	Gustill Farms, Inc.	91 c/o	2,191	703	3.5	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
JOBEN-SUMMER	Donald Joben	39 c/o	240	710	1.1	Season Long	5/16 - 10/31	

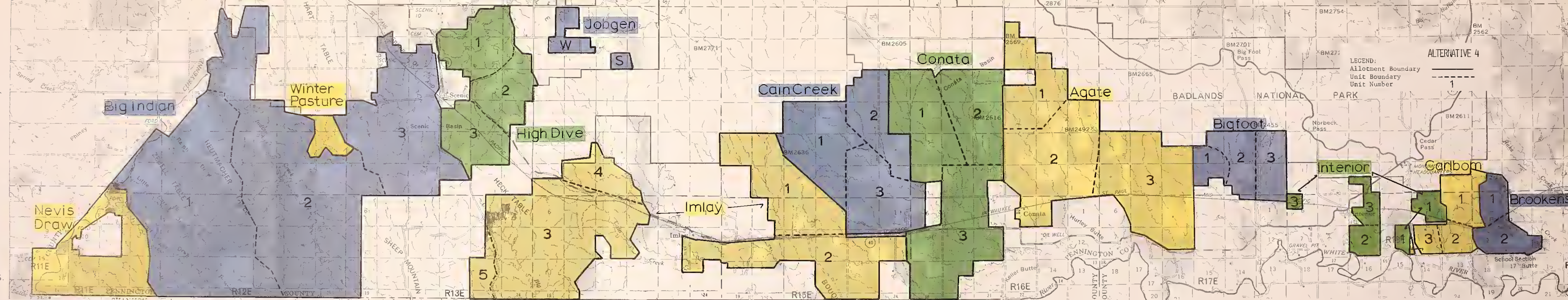
ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK HEADINGS	SUITABLE ACRES	ADMS	ACRES/ ADMS	TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	PRAIRIE LOG ACTIVE 1961-85 AREA AC. CONTROL AC.
JOBEN-SUMMER	Donald Joben	39 c/o	240	710	1.1	Season Long	5/16 - 10/31	
SPRING PRAIRIE	Paul Jaffer Alvin Little Jorisch Estate TOTAL	95 c/o	6,420	618	2.7	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
		123 c/o		457				
		115 c/o		413				
WINTER PASTURE	Paul Jaffer	10 b	816	91	6.4	Winter	10/15 - 4/20	
ZEPPELL	Chauncey Taylor Donald Taylor Estate Vanda Edoff In. H. A. Alvin Little Donald Thorsen Shirley Gale TOTAL	205 c/o	23,764	1,517	3.8	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
		256 c/o		1,527				
		35 c/o		276				



ALLOTMENT		PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS	SUITABLE ACRES	AUMS	ACRE/ AUM	TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	PRAIRIE DOT ACTIVE 1984-85 AREA AC. CONTROL AC.		
AGATE	Kruso Partnership		119 c/o	4,169	864	4.8	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31			
BIGFOOT	Walter Huetler Alice Groves TOTAL		321 c/o 9 c/o 239 c/o	1,600 62 5,673	1,668	3.4	4 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31			
CAIN CREEK	Wanda Aclotto		706 c/o	1,710	751	2.3	2 UNITS Deferred	5/16 - 8/10			
CANE CREEK	Walter Huetler Milo & Janna Huetler Jerald Belaricha TOTAL		137 c/o 66 c/o 67 c/o 264 c/o	355 459 487 11,010	1,911	5.8	4 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31			
CARLBOR	Charles Carlboro		93 c/o	1,102	597	2.0	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/10			
CONATA	John William Hunter Edward Hunter TOTAL		121 c/o 93 c/o 87 c/o 201 c/o	875 677 630 12,329	2,182	5.6	4 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31			
IMLAY	Ralph White Wayne White Audra Raach TOTAL		180 c/o 63 c/o 122 c/o 272 c/o	1,310 457 324 16,311	2,101	6.1	4 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31			
UNIT 51	Audra Raach		17 c/o	1,292	123	10.5	Season Long	5/16 - 10/31			
UNIT 61	Ralph White		344 c/o	454	80	5.0	Rotated with Imlay	6/16 - 7/15			
INTERIOR	Gustill Farms, Inc.		97 c/o	2,431	703	3.5	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31			
JOHSEN-SUMMER	Donald Jobgen		22 c/o	240	210	1.1	Season Long	5/16 - 10/31			
JOHSEN-WINTER	Donald Jobgen		175 c/o	800	455	1.6	Winter	11/1 - 1/31			
ALLOTMENT		PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS	SUITABLE ACRES	AUMS	ACRE/ AUM	TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	PRAIRIE DOT ACTIVE 1984-85 AREA AC. CONTROL AC.		
NEVIS DRAW	F. M. A. Shirley Dale TOTAL		10 c/o 91 c/o 111 c/o	323 445 3,359	306	4.2	Season Long	5/16 - 10/31			
		NORTH AGATE	Kruso Partnership		20 c/o	3,139	651	4.8	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
				SCENIC	Donald Jobgen Harvin Jobgen Donald Jobgen Jurlash Estate Alvin Imlay Paul Jelfer TOTAL		39 c/o 88 c/o 39 c/o 115 c/o 123 c/o 95 c/o 438 c/o	293 636 276 622 893 688 3,605	3.3	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31
WINTER PASTURE	Paul Jelfer						10 b	918	97	8.4	Winter
		ZEBELL	Vanda Edolf Chauncy Taylor Donald Thorsen Alvin Imlay Donald Taylor Estate TOTAL				39 c/o 209 c/o 155 c/o 79 c/o 266 c/o 748 c/o	276 1,517 1,124 574 1,232 5,433	3.7	2 UNITS Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31

T.3S.

T.4S.

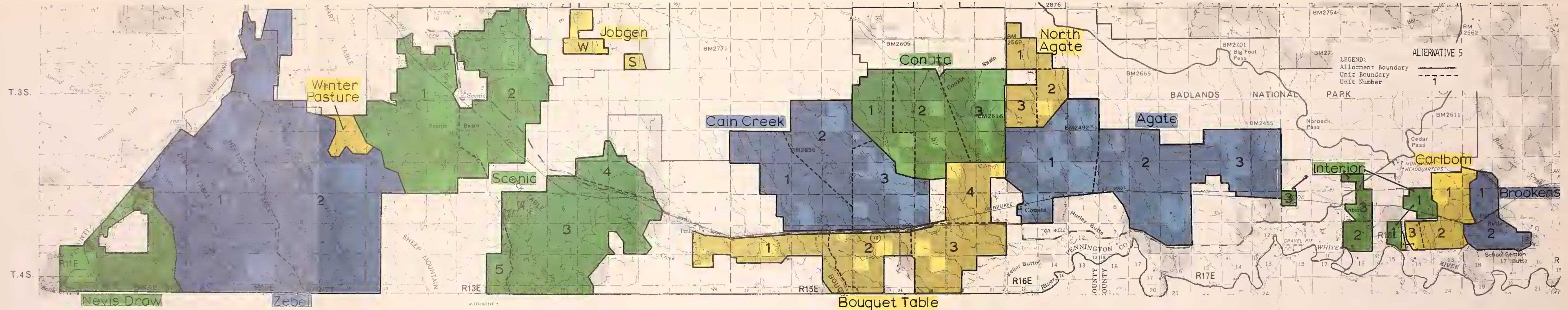


LEGEND:
Allotment Boundary
Unit Boundary
Unit Number

ALTERNATIVE 4

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS	SUITABLE ACRES	ADMS	ACRE/ ADMS	TYPE OF GRASSING	SEASON	PRAIRIE DOG ACTIVE 1984-85 AREA AC. CONTROL AC.
AGATE	Bruce Partnership	209 c/o		1,515		3 UNITS		
	Walter	121 c/o		815		Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
	TOTAL	330 c/o	17,308	2,330	5.4			
BIGFOOT	Walter Rutherford	172 c/o		887		3 UNITS		
	Alles Groves	9 c/o		62		Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
	TOTAL	181 c/o	3,308	949	3.5			
BIG INDIAN	Alvin Zietlow	202 c/o		1,467		3 UNITS		
	Forlough Estate	119 c/o		852		Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation		
	Paul Leller	65 c/o		899				
	Donald Taylor Estate	266 c/o		1,932				
	Chauncy Taylor	109 c/o		1,517				
	Wanda Edoff	38 c/o		276				
	TOTAL	1,061 c/o	26,895	7,846	3.4		5/16 - 10/31	
BROOKENS	Norman Anstotts	205 c/o	1,750	761	5.2	Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 8/10	
CAIN CREEK	Walter Rutherford	29 c/o		718		3 UNITS		
	Monte & Jason Whitecher	65 c/o		469		Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation		
	TOTAL	94 c/o	8,213	1,579	5.2		5/16 - 10/31	
CARBON	Charles Carbon	33 c/o	1,702	587	2.9	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
CONATA	William Rutherford	93 c/o		677		3 UNITS		
	Edward Rutherford	87 c/o		630		Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation		
	Walter Whitecher	78 c/o		564				
	TOTAL	258 c/o	11,782	2,358	4.0		5/16 - 10/31	
HIGH DIVE	Marvin Jobgen	98 c/o		836		3 UNITS		
	Wanda Jobgen	39 c/o		283		Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation		
	TOTAL	137 c/o	6,311	1,195	4.4		5/16 - 10/31	
IMLAY	Ralph White	180 c/o		1,360		3 UNITS		
	Wayne White	63 c/o		457		Deferred		
	TOTAL	243 c/o	16,511	2,701	6.1		5/16 - 10/31	
UNIT 41	Kudrna Ranch	17 c/o	1,292	123	10.5	Season Long	5/16 - 10/31	
UNIT 51	Ralph White	244 c/o	454	90	5.0	Rotat. with Imlay	6/16 - 7/15	

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK NUMBERS	SUITABLE ACRES	ADMS	ACRE/ ADMS	TYPE OF GRASSING	SEASON	PRAIRIE DOG ACTIVE 1984-85 AREA AC. CONTROL AC.
INTERIOR	Guptill Farms, Inc.	97 c/o	2,491	703	3.5	3 UNITS Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/16 - 10/31	
JOBGEN-SUMMER	Donald Jobgen	29 c/o	740	710	1.1	Season Long	5/16 - 10/31	
JOBGEN-WINTER	Donald Jobgen	125 c/o	800	425	1.6	Winter	11/1 - 1/31	
NEVIS DRAW	F. H. A. Shipley Dale	50 c/o		353		Season Long		
	TOTAL	111 c/o	3,350	808			5/16 - 10/31	
WINTER PASTURE	Paul Leller	10 b	818	97	8.4	Winter	10/15 - 4/30	



ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK SUITABLE NUMBERS	ACRES	ACRES/ AUM	TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	PRAIRIE DOG ACTIVE 1984-85 AREA AC. CONTROL AC.
AGATE	Kruse Partnership	119 c/o	824	6.9	3 UNITS		
	Walter	110 c/o	875		Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation		
	Alice Groves	9 c/o	67				
	Walter Mueller	112 c/o	899				
	TOTAL	370 c/o	13,017	2,889		5/15 - 10/31	
BOUQUET TABLE	Ralph White	35 c/o	228		4 UNITS		
	Jeveland Brinkley	67 c/o	497		Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation		
	Kurtz Ranch	179 c/o	924			5/15 - 10/31	
	TOTAL	291 c/o	1,649	3.8			
BROOKENS	Norman / Holte	208 c/o	1,710	7.1	1 UNIT	5/15 - 8/10	
	Entire						
CAIN CREEK	Walter Whitaker	122 c/o	535		3 UNITS		
	Monta & Janda Whitaker	55 c/o	469		Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/15 - 10/31	
	TOTAL	197 c/o	2,794	1,424			
CARLBORN	Charles Carlborn	92 c/o	1,702	587	3 UNITS	5/15 - 10/10	
					Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation		
CONATA	Valerie Huthner	90 c/o	119		1 UNIT		
	William Huthner	95 c/o	671		Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation	5/15 - 10/31	
	Edward Huthner	87 c/o	820				
	TOTAL	279 c/o	8,895	2,020			
INTERIOR	Guptill Farms, Inc.	97 c/o	2,491	703	3 UNITS	5/15 - 10/31	
					Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation		
JOHNSON-CUMMER	Donald Johnson	79 c/o	240	210	Season Long	5/15 - 10/31	
JOHNSON-WINTER	Donald Johnson	125 c/o	800	405	Winter	11/1 - 1/31	
NEVIS DRAW	Fr. B. A.	50 c/o	363				
	Shirley Dale	63 c/o	413				
	TOTAL	111 c/o	3,319	800	Season Long	5/15 - 10/31	
NORTH AGATE	Kruse Partnership	90 c/o	3,139	851	3 UNITS	5/15 - 10/31	
					Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation		

ALLOTMENT	PERMITTEE	LIVESTOCK SUITABLE NUMBERS	ACRES	ACRES/ AUM	TYPE OF GRAZING	SEASON	PRAIRIE DOG ACTIVE 1984-85 AREA AC. CONTROL AC.
SCENIC	Ralph White	135 c/o	824		5 UNITS		
	Wayne White	63 c/o	497		Rest Rotation/ Deferred Rotation		
	Mervin Jobgen	88 c/o	838				
	Duane Jobgen	38 c/o	203				
	Duane Jobgen	38 c/o	218				
	Alvin Zlatovic	123 c/o	893				
	Jurich Satala	115 c/o	852				
	Paul Lelzer	85 c/o	882				
	TOTAL	781 c/o	10,454	5,048		5/15 - 10/31	
	(UNIT 4)	17 c/o	1,292	123	Season Long	5/15 - 10/31	
(UNIT 5)	Ralph White	88 c/o	454	90	Rotate with Inlay	8/15 - 7/15	
	Paul Lelzer	10 b	618	97	Winter	10/15 - 4/30	
WINTER PASTURE							
ZEBEL	Wanda Edoff	38 c/o	276		2 UNITS		
	Chauncey Texico	209 c/o	1,317		Deferred		
	Donald Thorsen	158 c/o	1,134				
	Alvin Zlatovic	79 c/o	374				
	Donald Texico Estate	268 c/o	1,922			5/15 - 10/31	
	TOTAL	749 c/o	10,403	5,435			

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Many people and organizations have already expressed their views on these issues through personal contacts, the news media, letters and at various meetings and workshops. The enclosed Response Form provides you or your organization an opportunity to provide input for consideration during this analysis. Also, please contact any of the following offices if you need additional clarification or information:

Forest Supervisor
Nebraska National Forest
270 Pine Street
Chadron, Nebraska 69337 Phone (308) 432-3367

District Ranger
Buffalo Gap and Ft. Pierre National Grasslands
Wall, South Dakota 57790 Phone (605) 279-2125

District Ranger
Buffalo Gap National Grassland
Star Route, Box 200
Hot Springs, South Dakota Phone (605) 745-4107

District Ranger
Nebraska and Samuel R. McKelvie National Forests
P.O. Box 38
Halsey, Nebraska 69142

District Ranger
Nebraska National Forest and Oglala National Grassland
HC 75, Box 13A9
Chadron, Nebraska 69337

Copies of the 1978 Environmental Impact Statement on prairie dog management, 1981 amendment, Land and Resource Management Plan and the recent ferret habitat publication mentioned in document one are available for review at these office locations.

RESPONSE FORM

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

(OPTIONAL)

NAME/ORGANIZATION_____

ADDRESS_____

ZIPCODE_____

PHONE NO._____

AFFILIATION

(CHECK ONE)

Academic	()
Business/Industry	()
Concerned Citizen	()
Environmental	()
Government	()
Grazing Permittee	()
Grazing Association	()
Landowner	()
Natural Resource Group	()
Professional Society	()
Other	()

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS RELATING TO DOCUMENT ONE---

BLACK-TAILED PRAIRIE DOG MANAGEMENT
ON THE
NEBRASKA NATIONAL FOREST AND ASSOCIATED UNITS

1. Issues and Concerns (We want to know if there are additional issues and concerns that need to be considered.)_____

2. Alternatives (We have presented some possible alternatives and need to know if you have others in mind.)

3. Alternatives (We want to know if you have any suggestions or comments on the alternatives [A-E] presented in Document One)

Alternative A

Alternative B

Alternative C

Alternative D (Proposed Action)

Alternative E

4. Other Comments

PLEASE RESPOND TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS RELATING TO DOCUMENT TWO--

RANGE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES
FOR TWO MAJOR PRAIRIE DOG AREAS--CONATA BASIN AND SCENIC BASIN--
ON THE BUFFALO GAP NATIONAL GRASSLAND

1. Issues and Concerns (We want to know if there are additional issues and concerns that need to be considered.) _____

2. Alternatives (We have presented some possible alternatives and need to know if you have others in mind.)

3. Alternatives (We want to know if you have any suggestions or comments on the alternatives [1-5] presented in Document Two.)

Alternative 1

Alternative 2

Alternative 3

Alternative 4

Alternative 5

4. Other Comments

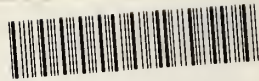
Please use the enclosed envelope to return your response form by December 1, 1986 to:

Forest Supervisor
Nebraska National Forest
270 Pine Street
Chadron, Nebraska 69337

THANK YOU



R0001 125879



R0001 125879